

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Case File No.: AA-65185

EA No.: AK-040-99-040

Type of Action: Revocation of U.S.F.S. Administrative Site Withdrawal PLO No. 725, dated June 4, 1951, containing 33.95 acres of land at Edna Bay, Alaska.

Location: Located in Lot 3, Section 28, T. 68 S., R. 76 E., Copper River Meridian

Applicant: U.S. Forest Service

Prepared By: Kathy A. Stubbs, Realty Specialist

Preparing  
Office: Bureau of Land Management  
Anchorage Field Office  
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Date: September 13, 1999

I. INTRODUCTION

The subject land of the Proposed Action was withdrawn by Public Land Order (PLO) 725 dated June 4, 1951. This PLO ordered that 39.63 acres of land, "be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, subject to valid existing rights, for use as administrative sites, recreation areas or for other public purposes as indicated." On February 4, 1994, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) submitted a Notice of Intent to Relinquish a Portion of PLO No. 725. The USFS has requested that Parcel "A" for 5.68 acres be retained as a Forest Service Administrative Site. The entire township is withdrawn for the Tongass National Forest.

The land has not been used and is not needed for the purposes for which it was withdrawn. The surrounding lands have been tentatively approved to the State of Alaska. This action will permit the top filing by the State of Alaska to fall into place, making the selection by the State of Alaska valid.

A. Need for the Proposed Action:

The partial revocation of PLO 725 dated June 4, 1951, is needed because the administrative site withdrawal is not being used for the purposes for which it was withdrawn. The USFS recommends conveyance of the revoked portion of this PLO 725 to the State of Alaska. This action will effectively resolve the problem of the school buildings encroaching on the administrative site. It will also reduce special use permits for community development type uses. If the land is not conveyed to the State of Alaska, the revocation will open the land to metalliferous and non-metalliferous mining.

B. Conformance With Land Use Plan:

No land use plan exists for this area. However, the environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal (43 CFR 1610.8 (b)(1)).

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to partially revoke PLO No. 725, dated June 4, 1951 containing 33.95 acres of land. This will permit the top filing by the State of Alaska to fall into place, making the selection by the State of Alaska valid. The following description was used in the Order dated June 4, 1951:

Copper River Meridian  
T. 68 S., R. 76 E.,  
Section 28, Lot 3.

This area described contains 39.63 acres of public land.

B. No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative would leave PLO No. 725 at Edna Bay, Alaska as it is, under the administration of the USFS.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. General Setting:

The lands included within the revocation are situated on public lands surrounded by State conveyed lands and lands privately owned. The total acreage of the partial revocation is approximately 33.95 acres. There are mixed hemlock, spruce, pine and cedar with undergrowth of berry bushes and devil club.

B. Critical Elements:

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed and are either not present or will not be affected by the Proposed Action:

- Air Quality
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Farmlands (Prime or Unique)
- Floodplains
- Invasive, Non-native Species
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Subsistence
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wastes (Hazardous/Solid)
- Water Quality (Ground/Surface)
- Wetlands/Riparian Zones
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness.

1. Threatened and Endangered Species Clearance:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed and was determined to have no significant effect on any threatened and endangered species or their habitat.

2. ANILCA Section 810 Clearance:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed and was determined to have no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

3. Cultural Section 106 Clearance:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and was determined to be in compliance with pertinent historic preservation laws and regulations.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:

There are no impacts of the Proposed Action. The proposed partial revocation of USFS Administrative Site withdrawal PLO No. 725 at Edna Bay, Alaska, containing approximately 33.95 acres is administrative in nature and would have no effect on the human environment.

B. Impacts of the No Action Alternative:

There are no impacts under the No Action Alternative.

C. Mitigation Measures:

There are no mitigation measures needed for the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

D. Residual or Cumulative Impacts:

There are no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts for the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:

A. List of Preparers:

Donna Redding, Archaeologist  
Jeff Denton, Wildlife Biologist  
David Kelley, Natural Resource Specialist  
Kathy Stubbs, Realty Specialist